

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 03437 161247Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 TRSE-00 SSM-03 /064 W  
-----161247Z 018071 /43

P R 161150Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6162  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, IS  
SUBJECT: NRP LEADER REITERATES INSISTENCE ON NATIONAL UNITY  
GOVERNMENT

1. IN A BRIEF CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF ON MAY 15, NRP LEADER YEHUDA BEN-MEIR REPEATED HIS PARTY'S KNOWN POSITION THAT SHOULD THE NRP BE INDISPENSABLE TO FORMING A COALITION, IT WOULD INSIST ON A NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT (NUG). ASKED WHETHER THE NRP'S INSISTENCE ON A NUG WOULD BE ITS RESPONSE TO AN INVITATION OT JOIN A LIKUD-LED COALITION AS WELL AS ONE DOMINATED BY THE ALIGNMENT, HE REPLIED THAT ITS ANSWER WOULD BE THE SAME TO BOTH MAJOR PARTIES.

2. HOWEVER, BEN-MEIR ADMITTED THAT THE STIFFNESS OF THIS POSITION DEPENDED ON THE ELECTION RESULTS AND THUS ON THE FACTOR OF THE NRP'S INDISPENSABILITY. IN FACT, HE WOULD NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT EVEN IF THE ALIGNMENT AND THE DMC ALONE ARE ABLE TO  
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FORM A MAJORITY GOVERNMENT, THE NRP MIGHT JOIN SUCH A COALITION. (IN THIS CASE THE OTHER TWO PARTIES MIGHT WISH TO HAVE THE NRP IN THE COALITION IN ORDER TO EXPAND ITS BASE AND GIVE IT A LARGER, MORE COMFORTABLE MAJORITY IN THE KNESSET.)

3. BEN-MEIR, HOWEVER, SAW THE PROSPECTS FOR FORMING

A NUG AS VERY GOOD AND BELIEVED IT WOULD OCCUR  
EARLY IN THE GOVERNMENT-FORMATION PROCESS. AS ONE  
REASON FOR HIS OPTIMISM, HE SAID THE MAPAM HAD  
MOUNTED VIGOROUS CAMPAIGN AMONG ITS KIBBUTZIM  
OVER THE WEEKEND TO COMBAT SERIOUS IN-ROADS BY  
SHELLI. ACCORDING TO BEN-MEIR, IF THE ELECTION  
RESULTS SHOW THAT 25 PERCENT OR MORE OF MAPAM  
KIBBUTZNIKS HAD VOTED SHELLI, PERES WILL IGNORE  
MAPAM OBJECTIONS TO A NUG AND WILL ARGUE THAT  
THE LABOR PARTY GAVE MAPAM ASSURED PLACES ON THE  
ALIGNMENT LIST AND THEN RECEIVED POOR SUPPORT  
FROM THE MAPAM RANK AND FILE.

4. BEN-MEIR THOUGHT THE NRP WOULD WIN 10 OR 11  
SEATS. ASKED ABOUT OTHER PARTIES, HE  
CITED A POLL TAKEN THE MIDDLE OF LAST  
WEEK BY AN ORGANIZATION HE CALLED HIGHLY REPUTABLE.  
NONETHELESS, BECAUSE OF ITS SURPRISING RESULTS HE  
HESITATED TO GIVE THE POLL MUCH CREDENCE. ITS  
FINDINGS: LIKUD - 41 SEATS; ALIGNMENT 31;  
DMC 14 - 15 (COMMENT: WE SHARE BEN-MEIR'S  
DISBELIEF . WE ANTICIPATE THE CLOSE ELECTION--  
SEPTTEL--BUT THE ALIGNMENT STILL APPEARS TO  
HOLD AN EDGE OVER THE LIKUD.)  
DUNNIGAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COALITION GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL PARTIES, PARTY LEADERS, SPEECHES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 16-May-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977TELAV03437  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770173-0237  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** TEL AVIV  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770551/aaaabsgd.tel  
**Line Count:** 87  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** fc42be92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2499551  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NRP LEADER REITERATES INSISTENCE ON NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PINT, IS, NRP, (BEN-MEIR, YEHUDA)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/fc42be92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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